

Application No.: 10/069,986  
Examiner: Paul R. Durand  
Art Unit: 3721

**In the Claims**

Claims 1, 11, 14 and 17 are presently amended, and claims 2 and 15 are cancelled as shown in the "List of Current Claims."

**LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for depositing loose sheet material such as papers of value and bank notes, comprising a transport apparatus arranged to transport the sheet material, and a stacking unit for depositing the sheet material into a deposit device as well as a strapping unit, wherein the deposit device is arranged for selective deposition of loose and strapped sheet material[.];

wherein the deposit device includes a movable plate positioned above a deposit bin in a first operating mode for strapping of sheet material, and positioned outside the area of the deposit bin in a second operating mode for direct deposit of loose sheet material into a deposit bin of the deposit device.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the strapping unit is arranged in swiveling fashion in a door of the apparatus.

4. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the deposit device is configured as a tandem unit with two deposit bins each having a stacking unit associated therewith.

5. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the deposit device includes a sensor arranged to determine the height of a stack of loose sheet material deposited therein.

6. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 5, wherein one of the deposit device and deposit bin contains a vertically displaceable bottom which is displaceable in dependence on the sensor evaluation and a selected operating mode.

7. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the displaceable bottom is lowered in steps in the operating mode for strapped deposit.

8. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the displaceable bottom is lowerable continuously or in steps in the operating mode for loose stacking.

9. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, including a deposit bin arranged for stacking sheet material and removal thereof from the apparatus.

Claim 10 (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 ~~2~~, including a movable clamping apparatus disposed above the movable plate, said clamping apparatus being lowerable onto a stack of sheet material and arranged to deliver the stack to the strapping unit.

12. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, including a gripper arranged to transport the sheet material into the strapping unit.

13. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the strapping unit includes a printer for printing the strap with data relating to the sheet material.

14. (Currently Amended). A method for depositing loose sheet material such as papers of value and bank notes, wherein sheet material is supplied by means of a transport unit to a stacking unit which deposits the sheet material in a deposit unit, comprising the step of: selectively depositing the sheet material in loose [[or]] and strapped form in a deposit bin of the deposit unit[[.]];

wherein:

for a strapped deposit, a movable plate is positioned above the deposit bin, and the sheet material is deposited on said plate until a predetermined number of sheets or predetermined stack height has been reached,

the deposited sheet material is held on the movable plate and guided into a strapping unit with a clamping apparatus or transported into the strapping unit by means of a gripper, and

the movable plate is withdrawn and the stack of strapped sheets is released into the deposit bin.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein the movable plate is positioned outside the area of the deposit bin for loose deposit of sheet material in the deposit bin.

17. (Currently Amended). The method according to claim 14, including using a sensor to evaluate the height the deposited sheet material occupies within the deposit bin and in accordance with the evaluation lowering a displaceable bottom of the deposit bin sufficiently so that there is enough room for depositing a packet of strapped sheet material or a predetermined quantity of loose sheet material in the bin.